

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a county, hospital district, or public hospital to provide health care services to an indigent patient.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 61.0045(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A county, hospital district, or public hospital that receives information obtained under Subsection (a) shall use the information to determine whether the patient to whom services were provided is an eligible resident of the service area of the county, hospital district, or public hospital and, if so, shall pay the claim made by the provider to the extent that the county, hospital district, or public hospital is liable under Section 61.033 or 61.060 ~~[in accordance with this chapter]~~.

SECTION 2. Section 61.029, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) A county may provide or arrange to provide health care services for eligible county residents through the purchase of health coverage or other health benefits, including benefits described by Chapter 75.

SECTION 3. Section 61.056, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) A public hospital or hospital district may provide or arrange to provide health care services for eligible residents

1 through the purchase of health coverage or other health benefits,
2 including benefits described by Chapter 75. For purposes of this
3 subsection, the board of directors or managers of the hospital or
4 district have the powers and duties provided to the commissioners
5 court of a county under Chapter 75.

6 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

H.B. No. 2963

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2963 was passed by the House on April 22, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 149, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2963 on May 23, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2963 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor